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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,784	01/18/2002	Jack E. Olson	115-020-1	9571

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EXAMINER

CHOOBIN, BARRY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/050,784

Applicant(s)

OLSON ET AL.

Examiner

Barry Choobin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10-12 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9, 13-18 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/18/02
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 10-12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tilles et al (US 5,363,967) over Grisley (US 5,829,577).

As to claims 1, 10 and 19, Tilles et al disclose a mail article transportation and stabilization system, for use in conjunction with a camera-based scanning system whereby clear, accurate, and complete scanning, imaging, and reading of address information, contained upon a plurality of mail articles, can be achieved, comprising: a housing comprising a front surface (fig.1); a camera fixedly disposed within said housing and comprising a camera view port defined within said front surface of said housing and (OCR 215) across which a plurality of mail articles are to be serially conveyed; a conveyor belt for serially conveying the plurality of mail articles across said camera view port of said camera in a longitudinal direction such that information contained upon the plurality of mail articles can be scanned imaged (FIG.1 and FIG.3), and read by said camera.

Tilles et al does not disclose air plenum means defined within said housing for generating air streams defining an air bearing layer upon which said conveyor belt, and the plurality of mail articles being conveyed by said conveyor belt, can be conveyed in a

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substantially smooth, frictionless, and jitter-free manner such that said camera can scan, image, and read the information contained upon the plurality of mail articles in an accurate, clear, and complete manner.

Grisley discloses a method of retrofitting an idler conveyor system with V-shaped air plenum and a v shaped air plenum conveyor comprising air plenum means housing for generating air streams defining an air bearing layer upon which said conveyor belt (fig.3).

Tilles et al and Grisley are combinable because they are both concern with transporting an article fro further processing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Tilles et al with the air plenum means of Grisley in order to reduce the jitter of the article.

The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to reduce the structural support, and dramatically reduce friction wear on the belt (column 1, lines 49-61).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the Tilles et al and Grisley to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 10 and 19.

As to claims 2, 11, Tilles et al disclose an optical character recognition type camera (OCR 215).

As to claims 3, 12, Tilles et al disclose a BCR (220).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4-9, 13-18, 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry Choobin whose telephone number is 703-306-5787. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM to 18:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 703-308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barry Choobin
February 16, 2005

